

Belltown Public Meeting
Meeting Notes
February 15, 2001

The Public Meeting was attended by 15 citizens).

Attending from Parks: Kerry Lasko, David Goldberg, and Toby Ressler.

Additional Attendees: Judy Fani from the SHA and Sue Sherbrooke from YWCA.

AGENDA

- I. Introductions:
- II. Project Advisory Team:
Opportunity for additional involvement
- III. Project Overview:
The intent of this project is to lease or purchase a space and renovates that space if necessary, to accommodate community gatherings that would serve as a civic focal point for this dense downtown neighborhood with rooms available for large public meetings, classes and rentals.
- IV. Project Schedule:
Site Selection: February 2001
Design program approved: February-March 2001
Public Meeting #1: February 2001
Tenant Improvements: July 2002
Construction complete: November 2002
- V. Site Analysis of each preferred site:
SEE HANDOUT
SHA
LIHI
YWCA
- VI. Conclusion:

The bulk of the meeting was focused on reviewing each particular site and getting comments and input from the community.

Outlined below are the comments from the community meeting.

Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI)

Early implementation process done by Carlson Architects made this site there preferred site.

New building doesn't have any baggage associated with it

Most central in the neighborhood to current and planned residential growth

Center would help anchor new LIHI facility

Explore condo arrangement

Strong retail on First Ave.

This would distract from this use

This is also good by adding vibrancy
Most expensive of the three if leased
The entire site would be on one floor.

YWCA

New computer center would be located and available for use by the neighborhood. Could work well with the Community Center
No ADA access to the mezzanine level
Two floors
New building across street will have 1,200 SF room with kitchen that neighborhood can use for a nominal fee
Only site that would be single use. No residential would be located above it.
No night activity along third Ave.
Expect block to become more active in the future
Security issues along 3rd Ave.
Lease desirable due to distribution of people in Belltown. This is at the South end of Belltown.
Possible loss or change of building in future if long-term use is not locked in.
Possible competing uses between the community center and the YWCA
This area is already serviced by the YWCA. What additional or different services would the CC have that would be different than the YWCA.

Seattle Housing Authority (SHA)

All on one floor and would have outdoor patio for use by users.
Would be interested in doing a condo type ownership
Strong retail on 1st Ave. same pro and con as LIHI
Most economic of the three if leased.
Childcare would be a problem due to the noise.
Residents above would hear all that was going on in patio area.
Center would affect timing of street build out positively. Otherwise this will probably not happen for many years. As compared to LIHI which will happen anyway.

Conclusion

Overall the consensus was that LIHI would be the best fit for the community. We took a quick straw vote and it was an overwhelmingly majority that chose LIHI over the other two.